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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 003027

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ACOA](#) [KHLS](#) [YM](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR UPDATES MOI ON PISCES AND
FINGERPRINTING PROGRAMS; SEEKS HELP IN CLEARING RADIOS FROM
CUSTOMS

Classified By: AMBASSADOR THOMAS C. KRAJESKI, FOR REASON 1.4 (B) AND (D
)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Ambassador informed MinInt Rashad al-Alimi on October 17 that a team from Washington would visit Yemen in the next few weeks to update the ROYG's PISCES system, and that an FBI team would come to provide training and equipment for a national fingerprint database in the next several months. Ambassador also asked Alimi for assistance in clearing Embassy radios and transmitter equipment, some of which has been blocked by customs authorities at the Sanaa airport for a year. END SUMMARY

2. (C) Ambassador updated Alimi on the USG's plans for updating Yemen's PISCES border control system, noting that a team from Washington would come to Yemen in November to provide critical software updates. He also told Alimi that an FBI team would visit in the next several months in order to provide more equipment and training for the ROYG's future national fingerprint database. Alimi said he was pleased with USG-ROYG cooperation on these programs and thanked the Ambassador for the "good news."

3. (C) Ambassador also asked Alimi for assistance in clearing Embassy radios and transmitter equipment from airport customs authorities. The radios and equipment will be used for emergency communications only, he said, adding that the Embassy could even share some of the radios with the security forces responsible for protecting the Embassy and its staff. This way, Embassy officials and Yemeni security forces could have reliable and close contact during a crisis, even if fixed and mobile telephone networks were unavailable. Alimi responded that he recognized that walkie-talkie technology was "available to anyone" in developed countries, but that "immature countries" such as Yemen still had sensitivities about portable radios. He noted that, in addition to several embassies in Sanaa, Yemen's mobile phone companies had also applied for permission to use portable radios. It is the ROYG's intention, he said, to come up with a comprehensive policy to allow for and regulate the use of portable radios "very soon." Alimi claimed that there would be an interagency meeting on the issue on the night of October 17, and that he may have an answer on this issue "as early as next week."

4. (C) COMMENT: Post does not believe that Alimi will have a positive answer for us by next week. We will continue pressing the issue with relevant officials. ROYG security officials are clearly hesitant to permit the use of communications technology without the means to monitor it. We are optimistic that once they have monitoring resources in place, permission to use portable radios and related equipment will be forthcoming.
Krajeski